

# HOBOnet® Wireless Sensor Network

## RXW Repeater (RXW-RPTR-B-xxx) Manual



### RXW Repeater

#### Models:




- RXW-RPTR-B-900 (US)
- RXW-RPTR-B-868 (Europe)
- RXW-RPTR-B-922 (Australia/NZ)

#### Included Items:

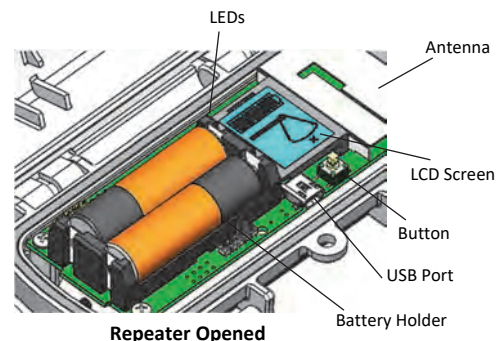
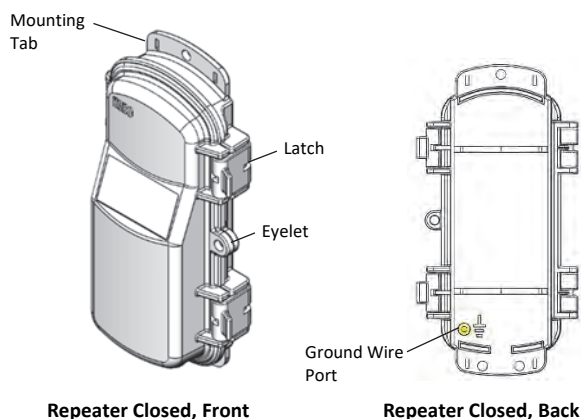
- Cable ties
- Screws

The RXW Repeater is designed to work with the HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network in which data is transmitted wirelessly from sensor motes across the network to the station and then uploaded to HOBOLink® web-based software. The repeater is ideal when there is an obstruction between motes and the station or for extending the transmission range of motes in the network. With HOBOLink, you can monitor the network, view graphs, set up alarms, download data, and more.

### Specifications

<b>Operating Temperature Range</b>	-40 to 70°C (-40 to 158°F)
<b>Radio Power</b>	12.6 mW (+11 dBm) non-adjustable
<b>Transmission Range</b>	Reliable connection to 457.2 m (1,500 ft) line of sight at 1.8 m (6 ft) high Reliable connection to 609.6 m (2,000 ft) line of sight at 3 m (10 ft) high
<b>Wireless Data Standard</b>	IEEE 802.15.4
<b>Radio Operating Frequencies</b>	RXW-RPTR-B-900: 904–924 MHz RXW-RPTR-B-868: 866.5 MHz RXW-RPTR-B-922: 916–924 MHz
<b>Modulation Employed</b>	OQPSK (Offset Quadrature Phase Shift Keying)
<b>Data Rate</b>	Up to 250 kbps, non-adjustable
<b>Duty Cycle</b>	<1%
<b>Maximum Number of Motes</b>	50 motes per one HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network
<b>Battery Type</b>	Two AA 1.5 V lithium batteries
<b>Battery Life</b>	1 year, typical use
<b>Dimensions</b>	16.2 x 8.59 x 4.14 cm (6.38 x 3.38 x 1.63 inches)
<b>Weight</b>	219 g (7.74 oz)
<b>Materials</b>	PCPBT, silicone rubber seal
<b>Environmental Rating</b>	IP67, NEMA 6
<b>Compliance Marks</b>	 RXW-RPTR-B-900: See last page  RXW-RPTR-B-868: The CE Marking identifies this product as complying with all relevant directives in the European Union (EU).  RXW-RPTR-B-922: See last page

### Components and Operation



**Mounting Tab:** Use the tabs at the top and bottom of the repeater to mount it (see *Deploying and Mounting*).

**Eyelet:** Use this eyelet to attach a 3/16 inch padlock to the repeater for security.

**Latch:** Use the two latches to open and close the repeater door.

**Ground Wire Port:** Use this port to connect a ground wire (see *Deploying and Mounting*).

**Antenna:** This is the built-in antenna for the radio communications across the wireless network.

**LEDs:** There are two LEDs to the left of the LCD screen. The green LED blinks during the process of joining a network, blinking quickly while the repeater searches for a network and then slowly as the repeater registers with the network. Once the network registration process is complete, the blue LED blinks at 4 seconds to indicate normal operation. If the repeater is not currently part of a network, the blue LED will be off. If the blue LED is on and not blinking, there is a problem with the repeater. Contact Onset Technical Support.

**Battery Holder:** The location where the batteries are installed as shown (see *Battery Information*).

**USB Port:** Use this port to connect to the repeater to a computer via USB cable if you need to update the firmware (see *Updating Repeater Firmware*).

**Button:** Push this button for 1 second to illuminate the LCD or 3 seconds for the repeater to search for a wireless sensor network to join (see *Adding the Repeater to the HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network*).

**LCD Screen:** The repeater is equipped with an LCD screen that displays details about the current status. This example shows all symbols illuminated on the LCD screen followed by definitions of each symbol in the table.



LCD Symbol	Description
	The battery indicator shows the approximate battery charge remaining.
	This is a signal strength indicator. The more bars, the stronger the signal between nodes. If there is no x icon next to the signal strength indicator, then the repeater is part of a HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network.
	An empty signal strength icon plus the x icon indicates that the repeater is not currently part of a network. See <i>Adding the Repeater to the HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network</i> for details on how to add it to the network.
	When the repeater is in the process of joining a network, the signal strength icon will blink and then the bars in the icon will cycle from left to right. The x icon will blink during the last step in the network registration process (see <i>Adding the Repeater to the HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network</i> for details).

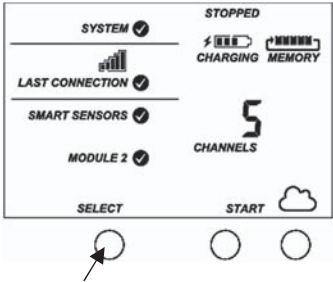
## Adding the Repeater to the HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network

The repeater must join a HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network before it can begin transmitting data. This requires accessing the station and the repeater at the same time so it is recommended that you complete these steps before deploying the repeater.

**Important:** If you are setting up a new station, follow the instructions in the station quick start before setting up this mote (go to [RX2105 and RX2106 stations](#) or [RX3000 stations](#)).

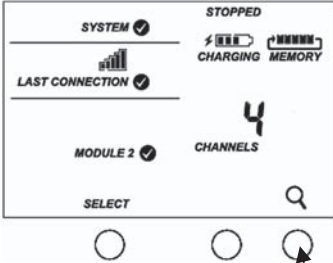
To add a repeater to the network:

1. If the LCD is blank on the station, press any button to wake it up.
2. Press the Select button once (which shows the number of smart sensors installed) and then press it again to switch to the module with the manager (module 2 on RX2105 or RX2106 stations).



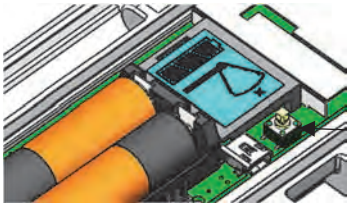
Press this button to view the module

3. Press the Search button (the magnifying glass). The magnifying glass icon will blink while the station is in search mode.



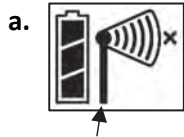
Press this button so the station is ready to have the repeater join the network

4. Open the repeater door and install the batteries if you have not already done so.
5. Press the button on the repeater for 3 seconds. The signal strength icon will flash and then cycle.



Press this button for 3 seconds for the repeater to join the network

## 6. Watch the LCD on the repeater.



This signal strength icon blinks while searching for a network.



Once a network is found, the icon will stop flashing and the bars will cycle from left to right.



This network connection "x" icon blinks while the repeater completes the registration process, which may take up to five minutes.

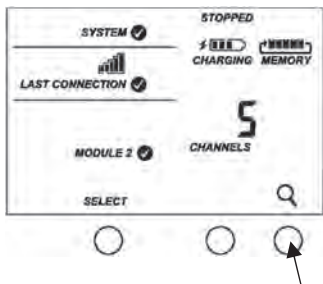


Once the repeater has finished joining the network, the "x" icon is removed and the channel count on the station LCD increases by one for the repeater battery.

This process may take up to five minutes. The green LED blinks quickly while the repeater searches for a network to join and then blinks slowly while it completes the network registration. Once the repeater has finished joining the network, the green LED turns off and the blue LED then blinks indefinitely while the repeater is part of the network.

**Note:** If the mote cannot find the network or has trouble remaining connected during this process, make sure the mote is in a vertical, upright position and within range of the station.

## 7. Press the Search button (the magnifying glass) on the station to stop searching for repeaters.



Press this button again to stop searching for the repeater

When you are finished adding repeaters and wireless sensors to the network, the total channel count for the module on the station will represent the measurement channels from all motes plus a battery channel for each mote (including repeaters) in the network.

Use HOBOLink to monitor repeater status. See the HOBOLink Help for details on how to check status, add the repeater to a map, and more.

## Deployment and Mounting

### When to Use a Repeater

- Motes cannot transmit data to each other if there is an obstruction between them, such as a hill or mountain in the example diagram below on the left. If there is an obstruction in the path of two sensor motes or between a

sensor mote and the RXW Manager, then use a repeater mounted on the obstruction between the two as shown in the diagram below on the right.

- If the distance between two motes is greater than the recommended transmission range in the specifications, then you may need to add a repeater between them.
- If the signal between two motes is weak (consistently one bar on the LCD) even though the motes are within the recommended transmission range, add a repeater between them.

### Mounting and Positioning the Repeater

- Mount the repeater to a mast or pipe using cable ties or affix the repeater to a wooden post or flat surface with screws. Insert the cable ties or screws through the holes on the mounting tabs.
- Consider using plastic poles such as PVC to mount the repeater as certain types of metal could decrease the signal strength.
- Make sure the repeater remains in a vertical position once it is placed in its deployment location for optimal network communications.
- Make sure the repeater door is closed, with both latches fully locked to ensure a tight seal.
- Consider using a 3/16 inch padlock to restrict access to the repeater. With the repeater door closed, hook a padlock through the eyelet on the right side of the door and lock it.
- Make sure the repeater is mounted a minimum of 1.8 m (6 feet) from the ground vegetation to help maximize distance and signal strength.
- There should not be more than five motes in any direction at their maximum transmission range from the manager. Data logged by a wireless sensor must travel or "hop" across the wireless network from one mote to the next until it ultimately reaches the manager at the station. To make sure the data can successfully travel across the network, the mote should not be more than five hops away from the manager.
- The HOBOnet Wireless Sensor Network can support a maximum of 50 motes.
- Use a #4-40 screw to attach a ground wire to the port on the back of the repeater if you are deploying it in a location where lightning is a concern.



## Maintenance

Periodically inspect the repeater and do the following:

- Verify the repeater is free of visible damage or cracks.
- Make sure the repeater is clean. Wipe off any dust or grime with a damp cloth.
- Wipe off any water before opening the repeater.
- Make sure the interior seal is intact and the latches are fully locked when the repeater door is closed.

## Updating Repeater Firmware

If a new firmware version is available for the repeater, use HOBOLink to download the file to your computer.

1. In HOBOLink, go to Devices, then RX Devices, and click your station name.
2. On the station page, click Overview and scroll down to Device Information.
3. Click the Wireless tab. This icon  appears next to the mote if there is a new version of firmware available.
4. Click the firmware  upgrade link. Click Download and save the firmware .bin file to your computer.
5. Connect the mote to the computer with a USB cable (open the mote door and use the USB port to the right of the LCD). The blue LED is illuminated while connected.
6. The mote appears as a new storage device in the computer's file storage manager. Copy the downloaded firmware file to the new storage device (the mote). The blue LED will blink slowly while the file is copying.
7. After the file is copied to the mote, the LED will stop blinking and remain a steady blue. Eject the storage device from the computer and disconnect the cable from the mote. The firmware installation process will begin automatically on the mote. The blue LED will blink rapidly while the firmware is installed. Once the firmware installation is complete, the LCD symbols return and the mote will automatically rejoin the network.

### Notes:

- **Mac® users:** A message may appear indicating the disk has not ejected properly when disconnecting the mote from the computer. The mote is operational and you can ignore the message.
- If the blue LED turns off abruptly while copying the file or installing the firmware, a problem has occurred. Contact Onset Technical Support for help.

## Battery Information

### Lithium Batteries

You can use two 1.5 V lithium batteries (HWSB-LI) for operation at the extreme ends of the repeater operating range. Lithium battery life is an estimated at 1 year, but varies based on the ambient temperature where the repeater is deployed, the logging interval, the number of tripped alarms, and other factors. Estimates are not guaranteed due to uncertainties in initial battery conditions and operating environment. When using lithium batteries, you must disconnect the solar panel cable because the batteries will not be recharged.

To install lithium batteries:

1. Open the repeater door.
2. Remove any old batteries and install the new ones observing polarity.

The repeater contacts the network once the new batteries are installed. The green LED blinks quickly while the repeater

searches for a network to join and then blinks slowly while it completes the network registration. Once the repeater has finished joining the network, the green LED turns off and the blue LED then blinks indefinitely while the repeater is part of the network.

**⚠ WARNING:** Do not cut open, incinerate, heat above 85°C (185°F), or recharge the lithium batteries. The batteries may explode if the repeater is exposed to extreme heat or conditions that could damage or destroy the battery cases. Do not mix battery types, either by chemistry or age; batteries may rupture or explode. Do not dispose of the logger or batteries in fire. Do not expose the contents of the batteries to water. Dispose of the batteries according to local regulations for lithium batteries.